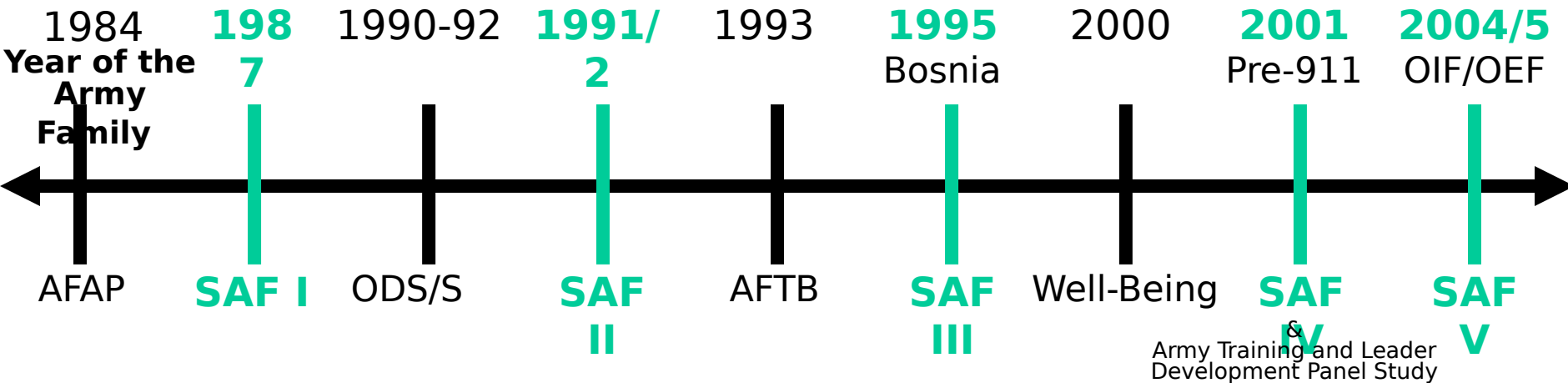




## Survey of Army Families V



# Background, Methodology, Highlights



## Methodology

- 43% response rate
- Usable responses from a total of 24,793 spouses of Active component Soldiers (8,988 officers and 15,805 enlisted)
  - 8,612 spouses of currently deployed Soldiers (CD)
  - 7,566 spouses of Soldiers who have deployed and returned (DR)
  - 8,615 spouses of Soldiers who have not deployed (ND)
- Responses weighted to represent the Army population
- Sampling error for the survey results is +1 percentage point for the total sample and sub-

## Key Findings

- 70% of all spouses think their family has adjusted well to the demands of being an "Army family" ( 66% CD; 65% DR; 73% ND)
- 57% overall are satisfied with the Army as a way of life (50% CD; 50% DR; 61% ND)
- 70% overall "Got along" well while their Soldier spouses are away (no difference by deployment status)
- 82% overall are satisfied with their marriage, 10% are neutral, and 8% are dissatisfied.
- 79% overall have dependent children living with them and the Soldier. 43% of deployed Soldiers have children 2 years of age and younger. Deployed Soldiers are least likely to have adolescent children.



## Survey of Army Families V



### Coping with Spouse's Absence

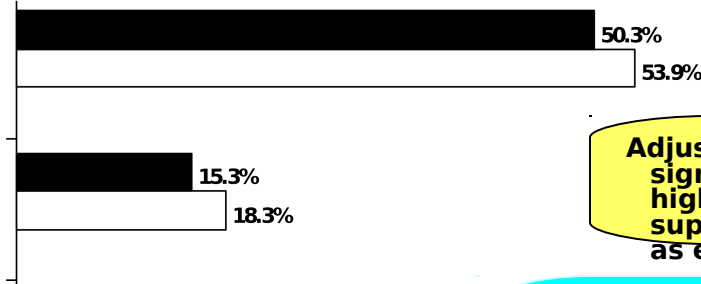
How well are you coping with your spouse's absence OR did you cope during your spouse's recent deployment?

Successful family adjustment is highly related to the quality of the marriage before and after the reunion (Orthner).

Very well/Well

Poorly/Very poorly

- Currently Deployed
- Deployed & Returned
- Not Deployed



Adjustment to a recent deployment is significantly higher among spouses with higher levels of perceived unit leader support, a helpful FRG, and AFTB rated as effective (Orthner)

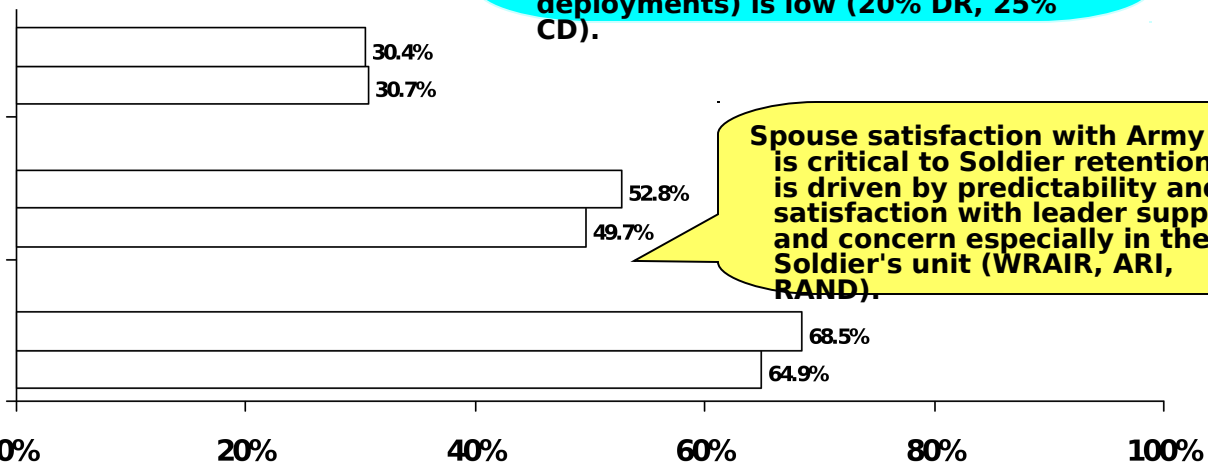
How much of a problem would you have coping if your spouse had to go away on an Army assignment, such as a redeployment, for ...

PERCENT VERY SERIOUS/SERIOUS PROBLEM

7 - 12 months

over a year

a mission overseas of undetermined length



- 2%-11% of spouses have a serious problem with deployments of less than 1 month up to 3-6 months
- Spouse satisfaction with information on unit rotation policies (length of deployments) is low (20% DR, 25% CD).

FRGs and RDCs have a crucial role in the communication link.

Spouse satisfaction with Army life is critical to Soldier retention. It is driven by predictability and satisfaction with leader support and concern especially in the Soldier's unit (WRAIR, ARI, RAND).

SE +/- 1%



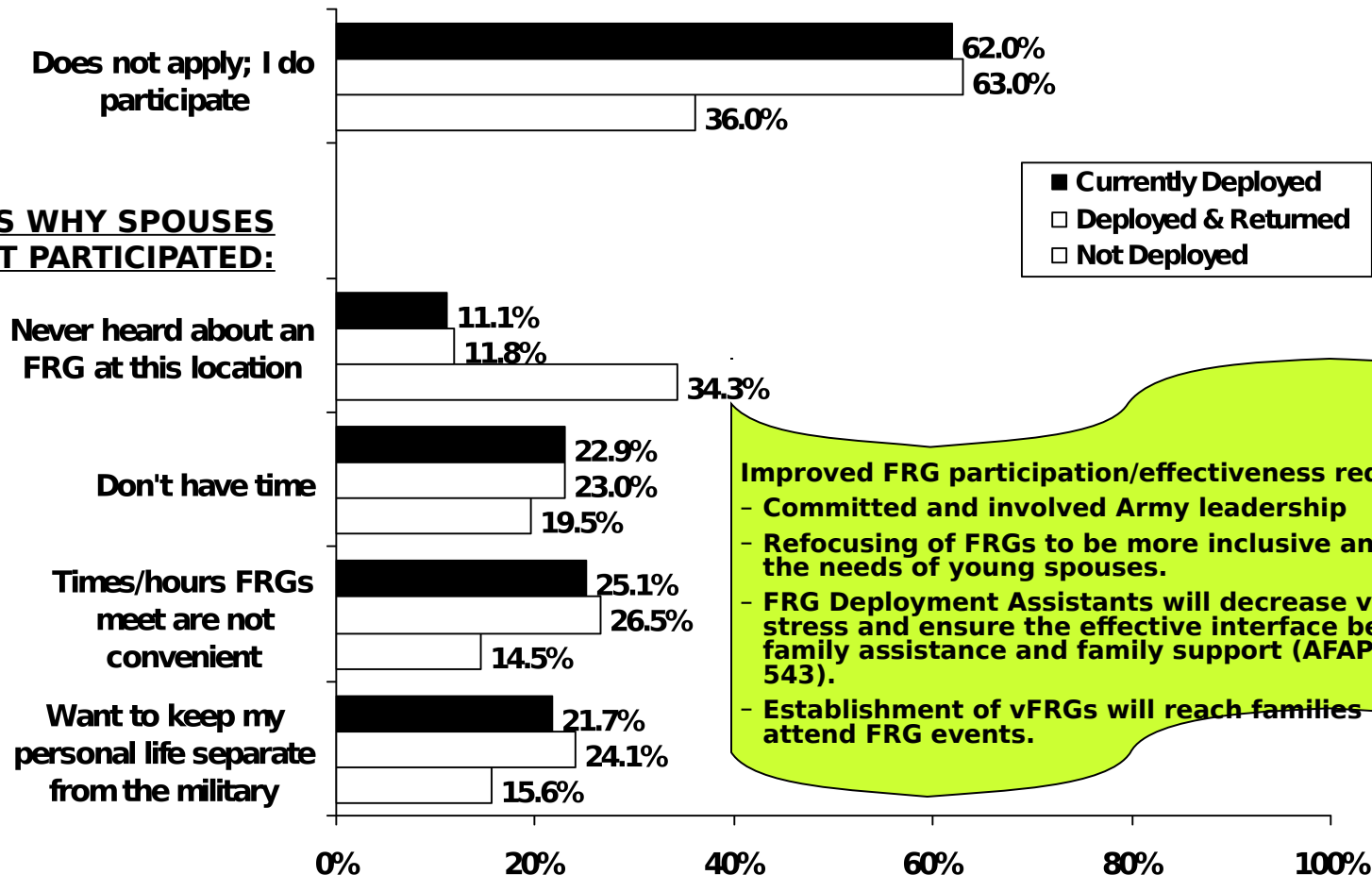
## Survey of Army Families V



# During the last 12 months, why have you NOT participated in an FRG?

(All spouses)

### REASONS WHY SPOUSES HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED:



SE +/-1%



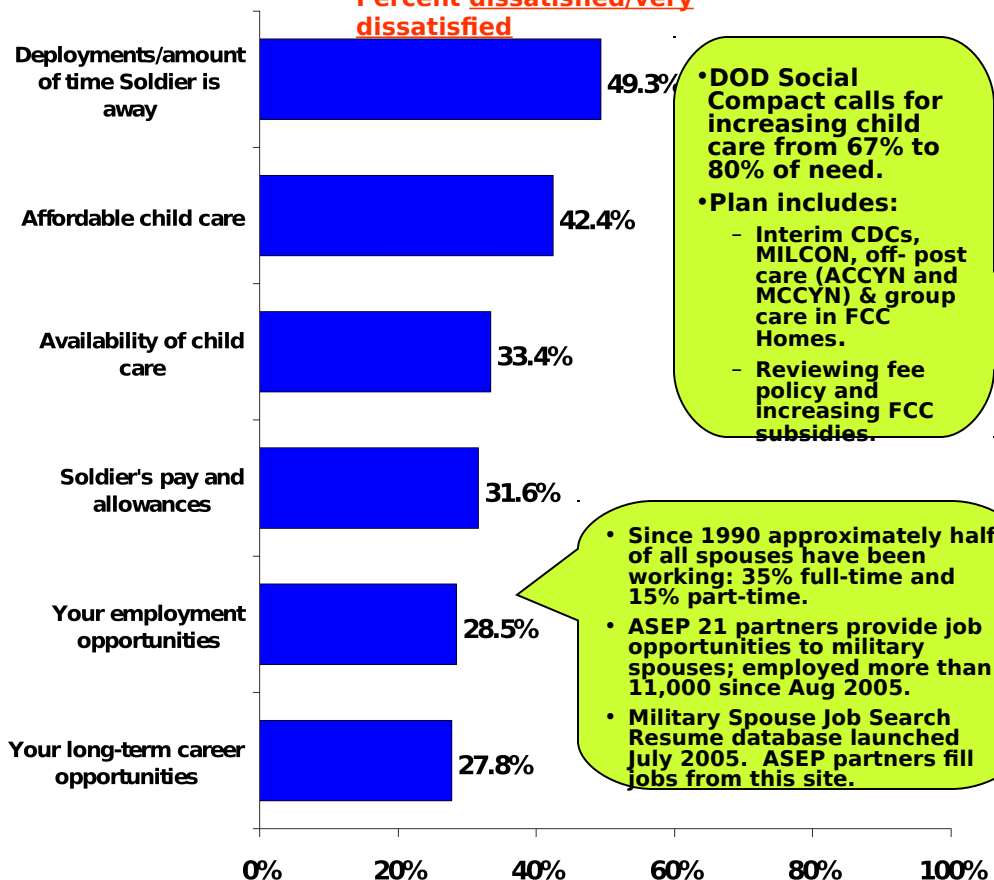
## Survey of Army Families V: Army Demands & Way of Life



# To what extent are you and your Soldier spouse satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following aspects of Army life? (All spouses)

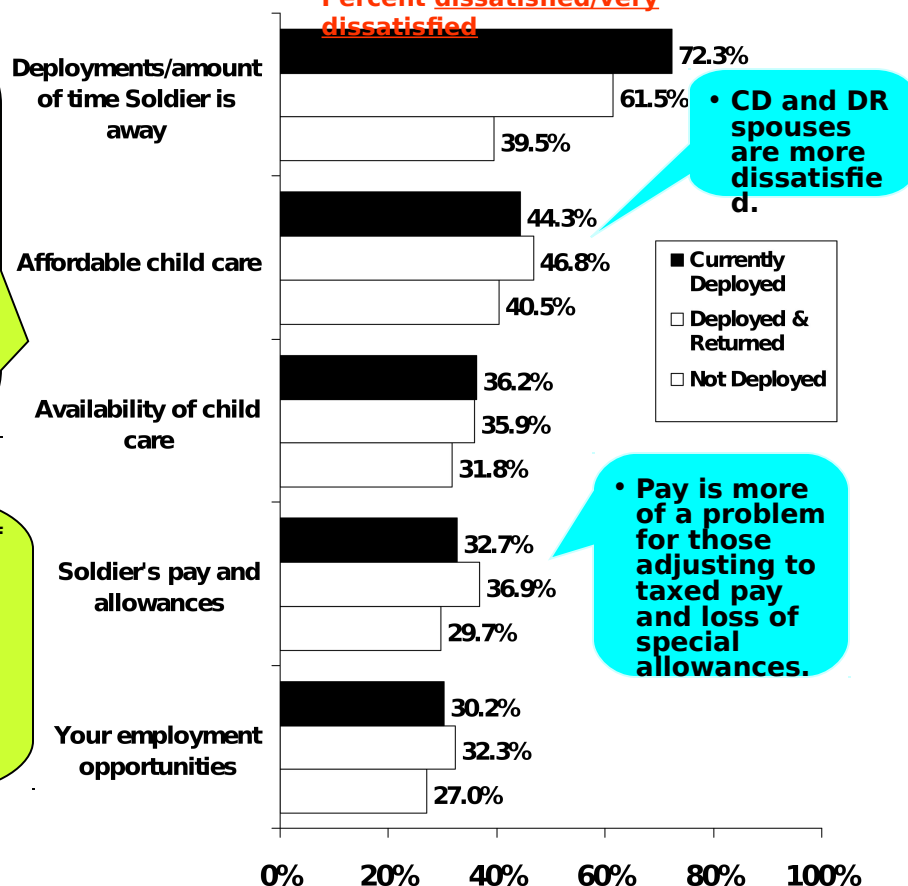
### SAF V 2004/5 Combined

Percent dissatisfied/very dissatisfied



### SAF V 2004/5

Percent dissatisfied/very dissatisfied



SE +/- 1%

SE +/- 1%

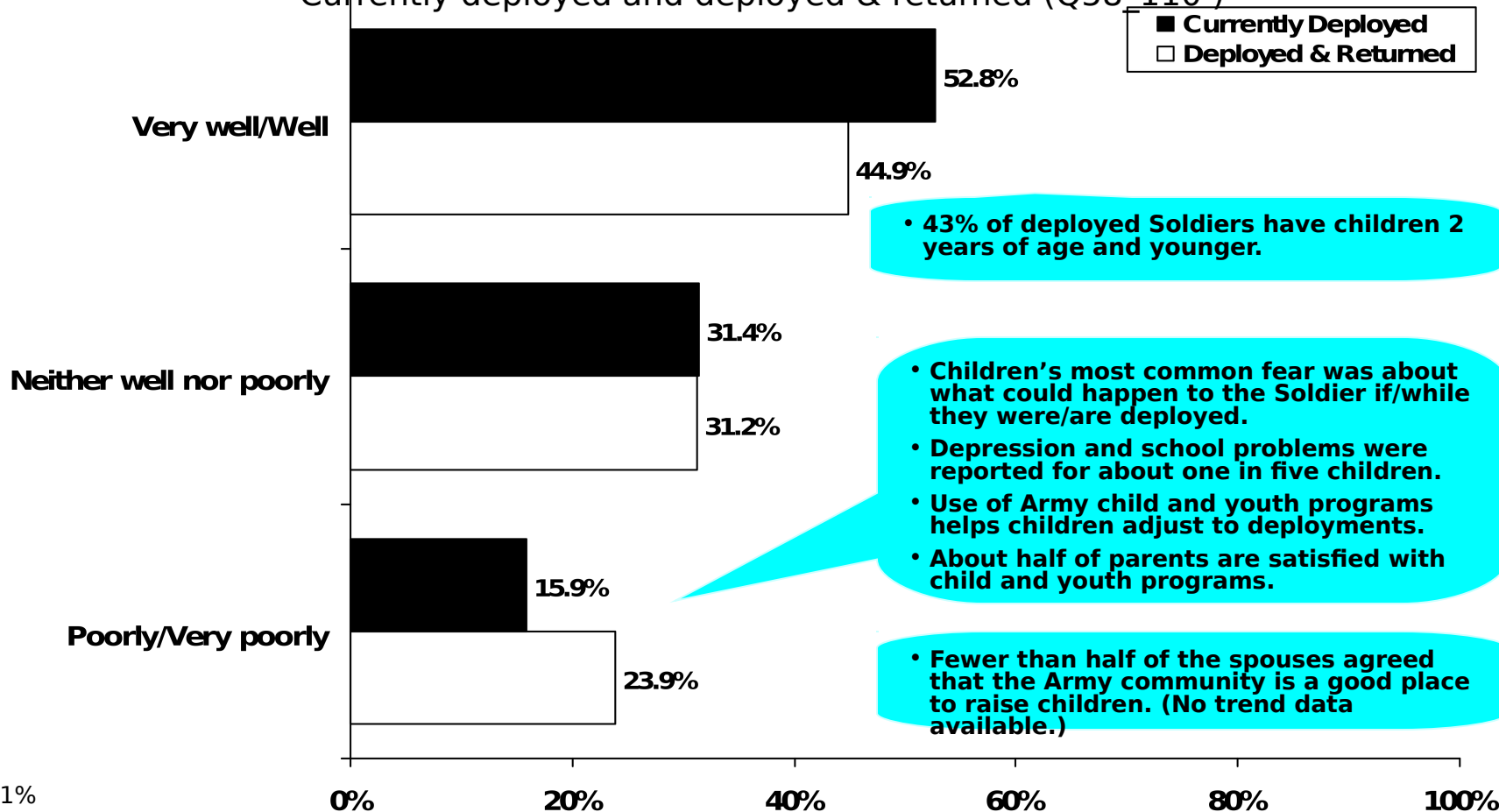


## Survey of Army Families V: Deployment



**In general, how well is your oldest dependent child coping OR how well did your oldest dependent child cope with your spouse being deployed and away from home?**

Currently deployed and deployed & returned (Q58, 110)



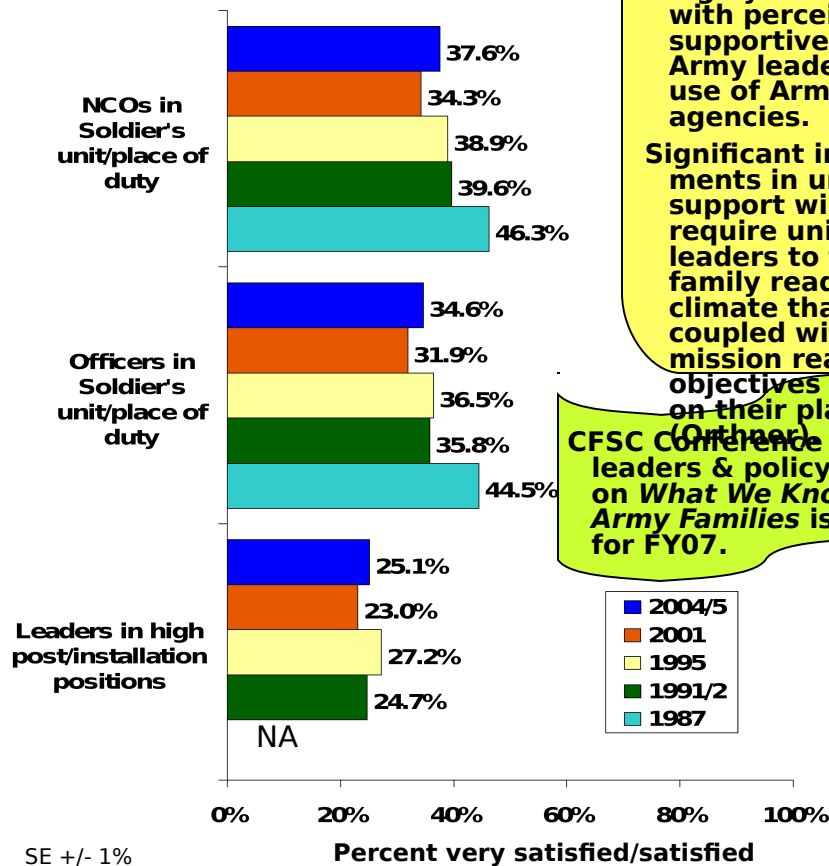


## Survey of Army Families V: Army Leadership



# How satisfied are you with the support and concern the following Army leaders show for your family?

### TREND DATA (Percent very satisfied/satisfied)

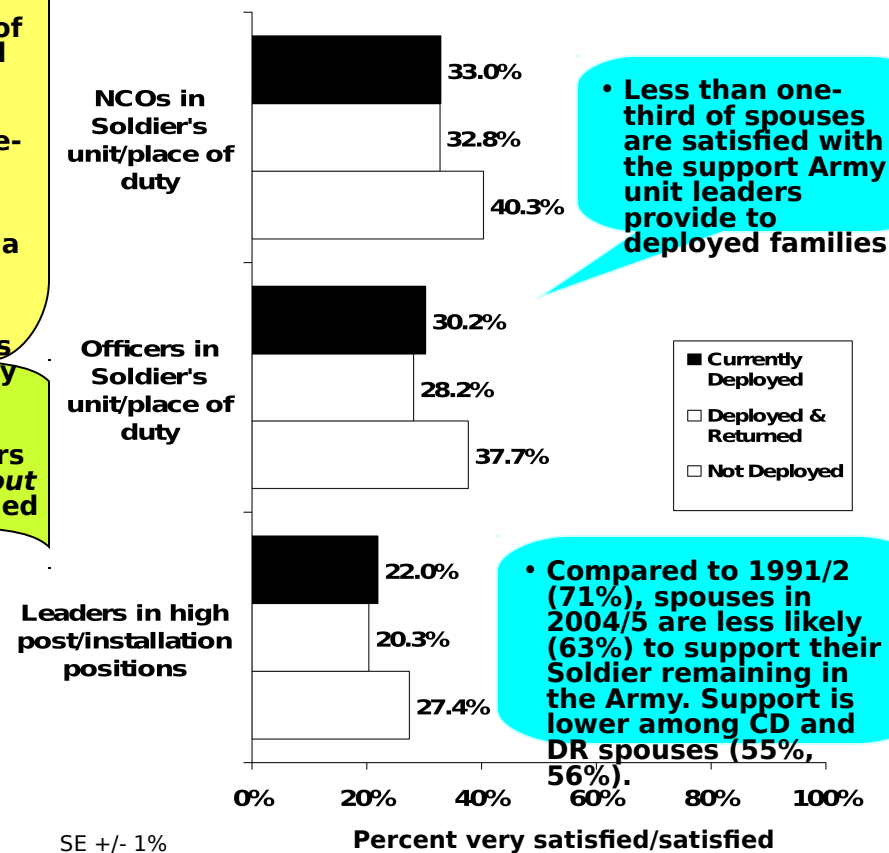


Successful family adjustment is highly associated with perceived supportive-ness of Army leaders and use of Army agencies.

Significant improvements in unit support will require unit leaders to foster a family readiness climate that is coupled with the mission readiness objectives already on their plates (Orthner).

CFSC Conference for leaders & policy makers on What We Know About Army Families is planned for FY07.

### SAF V 2004/5



• Less than one-third of spouses are satisfied with the support Army unit leaders provide to deployed families.

• Compared to 1991/2 (71%), spouses in 2004/5 are less likely (63%) to support their Soldier remaining in the Army. Support is lower among CD and DR spouses (55%, 56%).



### Recommended Actions to Improve Deployment and Separation Adjustments

- **Stress family readiness in leadership development courses at all levels; include successful strategies for engaging families and providing support to them.**
- **Maximize predictability by providing spouses accurate and timely information about unit duty schedules, mission, and family assistance, especially during periods of deployment separation.**
- **Sustain/increase child care support to include care for working families and respite care during deployment/ separation periods.**
- **Increase awareness, accessibility, and helpfulness of Army support agencies and programs.**
- **Promote opportunities for married couples to spend time together and strengthen their relationships.**
- **Build effective networks of spouses for support and combating loneliness/isolation.**